

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 47-81 (Cancelled)

82. (New) A method of processing structured electronic documents for consistency, the method comprising:

defining one or more consistency rules, each of the one or more consistency rules including at least one condition and associated with at least one pointer identifying a portion of a structured electronic document;

utilizing the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the identified portion of the structured electronic document;

determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data; and

generating consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination.

83. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the locator includes an address within the structured electronic document.

84. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the condition includes data defining a comparison operation.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied includes determining whether an element of data fulfills the comparison operation.

86. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein the consistency link data is generated when no elements of data are identified which fulfill the condition.

87. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the consistency link data further includes at least one of an indicator indicating a consistency rule within the one or more consistency rules which caused generation of the consistency link data and an indicator of the status of the determination.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the indicator of the status includes at least one of consistent and inconsistent.

89. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising:
monitoring the structured electronic documents to detect whether any of the structured electronic documents have been modified; and
if structured documents have been modified, processing the structured electronic documents to generate new consistency link data.

90. (New) The method of claim 89 wherein the monitoring includes determining whether a time stamp of a structured electronic document has been modified and if the time stamp of a document has been modified, determining which, if any, portions within the modified structured electronic documents have been modified.

91. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the generation of new consistency link data includes:

determining previously generated consistency link data associated with the modified portions of the structured electronic documents;

deleting any of the previously generated consistency link data determined to be data associated with the modified portions of the structured electronic documents;

utilizing the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the modified portion of the structured electronic document;

determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data; and

generating new consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination.

92. (New) A computer-implemented method of generating an output presentation identifying data which does or does not fulfill the requirements of consistency rules, the method comprising:

defining one or more consistency rules, each of the one or more consistency rules including at least one condition and associated with at least one pointer identifying a portion of a structured electronic document;

utilizing the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the identified portion of the structured electronic document;

determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data;

generating consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination;

processing the consistency link data to generate an output presentation; and

making the output presentation available to a user.

93. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein the locator includes an address within the structured electronic document.

94. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein processing the consistency link data includes generating an output presentation comprising a set of linked documents including one or more structured electronic documents, wherein the set of linked documents is linked on the basis of the consistency link data.

95. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the output presentation further includes labels associated with the consistency link data indicating a status of the determination.

96. (New) The method of claim 95, further comprising:
providing a natural language description of the at least one condition;
associating the natural language description with the consistency link data,
wherein the labels include the natural language description.

97. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein the labels further include HTML data, based on at least one locator, facilitating navigation of the set of linked documents.

98. (New) An apparatus for processing structured electronic documents based on consistency rules, the apparatus comprising:

a memory including:

instructions for receiving data defining structured electronic documents;

instructions for storing data defining one or more consistency rules, each of the one or more consistency rules including at least one condition and associated with at least one pointer identifying a portion of a structured electronic document;

instructions for utilizing the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the identified portion of the structured electronic document;

instructions for determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data; and

instructions for generating consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination;

and

a processor configured to execute the instructions included in the memory.

99. (New) The method of claim 98, wherein the locator includes an address within the structured electronic document.

100. (New) The apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a selection module operable to enable a user to select one or more structured electronic documents from structured electronic documents received by the receiver.

101. (New) The apparatus of claim 98, wherein the condition includes data defining a comparison operation.

102. (New) The apparatus of claim 101, wherein the processor is operable to determine whether an element of data fulfills the comparison operation.

103. (New) The apparatus of claim 101, wherein the data generation unit is operable to generate consistency link data when no elements of data are identified which fulfill the condition.

104 (New) The apparatus of claim 98, wherein the consistency link data further includes at least one of an indicator indicating a consistency rule within the one or more consistency rules, which caused generation of the consistency link data and an indicator of the status of the determination.

105. (New) The apparatus of claim 104, wherein the indicator of the status includes at least one of consistent and inconsistent.

106. (New) The apparatus of claim 98 further comprising:

a monitoring module operable to monitor the structured electronic documents received by the receiver to detect whether any of the structured electronic documents have been modified; and

an initiation module configured to process the structured electronic documents to generate additional consistency link data if structured documents have been modified.

107. (New) An apparatus in accordance with claim 106 wherein the monitoring module is arranged to determine whether a time stamp of a structured electronic document has been modified and if the time stamp of a document has been modified, determining which, if any, portions of data within the modified structured electronic documents have been modified.

108. (New) An apparatus in accordance with claim 106, further comprising:

a link identification unit operable to determine previously generated consistency link data associated with the modified portions of the structured electronic documents;

a deletion module operable to delete any of the previously generated consistency link data associated with the modified portions of the structured electronic documents; and

a regeneration unit operable to generate new consistency link data based on the one or more consistency rules.

109. (New) An apparatus for generating an output presentation identifying data that may fulfill the requirements of a set of consistency rules, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive data defining structured electronic documents;

a rules store operable to store data defining one or more consistency rules, each of the one or more consistency rules including at least one condition and associated with at least one pointer identifying a portion of a structured electronic document;

an identification module operable to utilize the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the identified portion of the structured electronic document;

a processor operable to determine whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data;

a data generation unit operable to generate consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination; and

an output generation unit operable to process the consistency link data to generate an output presentation.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the locator includes an address within the structured electronic document.

111. (New) The apparatus of claim 109, wherein the output generation unit is arranged to process the consistency link data and the structured electronic documents to generate an output presentation including a set of linked documents including one or more structured electronic documents, wherein the set of linked documents is linked based on the consistency link data.

112. (New) The apparatus of claim 109, wherein the output generation unit is arranged to generate an output presentation further including labels associated with the consistency link data indicating a status of the determination..

113. (New) The apparatus of claim 112, wherein the output generation unit is further configured to:

retrieve a natural language description of the condition;

associate the natural language description with the consistency link data,

wherein the labels include the natural language description.

114. (New) The apparatus of claim 112, wherein the labels further include HTML data, based on at least one locator, facilitating navigation of the set of linked documents.

115. (New) A computer readable medium with code embodied therein for performing a method, the method comprising:

receiving data defining structured electronic documents;

storing data defining one or more consistency rules, each of the one or more consistency rules including at least one condition and associated with at least one pointer identifying a portion of a structured electronic document;

utilizing the at least one pointer to identify any elements of data located within the identified portion of the structured electronic document;

determining whether the at least one condition is satisfied based on the identified element or elements of data; and

generating consistency link data including a locator associated with a location within the structured electronic document based upon the determination.

116. (New) A computer-readable medium in accordance with claim 115 comprising a computer disc.

117. (New) A computer disc in accordance with claim 116, wherein the computer disc comprises an optical, magneto-optical, or magnetic disc.